

City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle
Regular Council Meeting at Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday – October 9, 2012 – 7 p.m.

Present:

Council President William Barthel
Councilperson John Cochran
Councilperson John Gaworski
Councilperson Ted Megginson
Councilperson Teel Petty

Also present: Mayor Donald Reese, Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Police Chief Kevin McDerby, City Solicitor Daniel Losco

Approval of Minutes by Date

A motion was made by Councilperson Gaworski to approve the minutes of September 11, 2012. Councilperson Megginson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Carlin reported that, as of September 30, 2012: Petty cash on hand was \$1,100; monthly deposits, \$763,093.52; total cash in checking and saving accounts in M&T Bank, \$646,859.99; total certificates of deposit, money market and Delaware Government Investment Pool, \$3,148,129.11; and total cash on hand, \$3,794,989.10.

A motion was made by Councilperson Cochran to approve the Treasurer's Report. Councilperson Gaworski seconded the motion. The report was approved unanimously.

Report from the City Administrator

Administrator Thomas said she the only addition to her written report was that the past weekend was a good, positive weekend in the City with Oak Knoll Book Fest and lot of activity going on. She also said there are many events coming up in October, including the open house at the Good Will Fire Co.

President Barthel said the report was accepted as presented.

Staff reports

President Barthel said the staff reports were accepted as presented.

Grant Review

Councilperson Cochran provided the review. Grant income: ARRA Green storm water retrofits, \$49,022.49; Police Grant, \$2,697; Police Grant, \$21,140.35; Highway Safety, \$1,324.06; and MSC Appropriation, \$125,000.

Communications

Councilperson Petty said visitors from the University of Delaware Academy of Lifelong Learning came to tour the Buttonwood School and the mansion in Buttonwood, and to look at the dikes. She said Mrs. Thomas did an excellent job telling everyone about the dikes. They were very surprised and many of them had never heard of it before.

Business from the Floor

Tom Maddux, of Harmony Street, said that with President Barthel's permission he invited the leader of the Route 9 Coastal Heritage Byway, Stephen Borleske, to come in talk to Council.

Mr. Borleske said he is a 40-year resident of Wilmington. He is also a director of Delaware Greenways.

He provided Council with an overview of the program. The byway program was created in 1991 as part of the Federal Highway Administration. He stressed it is a grassroots effort and it is about recognition not regulation. It is another tool for the community's toolkit for the community to determine and achieve what wants it to be in the future. Route 9 went through the byway process in 2007. A strategic plan followed. It is in stage two for Route 9 byway, developing the plan, which they hope to have done by year's end. Delaware has six byways, two have an impact on New Castle: Route 9 and Harriett Tubman. Route 9 starts in New Castle and travels south to near the Air Force Base. It contains the largest area of preserved marsh land in the Eastern United States. He said it is a tremendous asset for the state. Plus there is almost 400 years of history in the area.

Mr. Borleske said most people think of a byway as road, but it is really the region. There are 10 discovery zones. There is an advisory team in place. They were looking for a local member and Mr. Maddux was recommended. He repeated that it is voluntary not regulation. Why participate? First, it is another tool, an organized voice of the public. Second, the organization has relationship with DNREC and other State organizations. Third, there can be a benefit of a regional approach.

President Barthel said the City was looking for an overview. He thanked Mr. Borleske, and Mr. Maddux for his interest.

Business from the Mayor

Mayor Reese said that on October 5, 2013, there is going to be a joint Delaware City and New Castle bicycling event. Also Senator Tom Carper sent the City a letter offering technical assistance for planning items.

Administrator Thomas added that the technical assistance is valuable to the City. It is Federal program. It all relates to sustainability and ties into the Comprehensive Plan. It could save the City money. She said organizers of the bicycling event will appear at a future Council meeting to seek its support.

Resolution in Memory of Charles "Pal" Bowen (former New Castle City Police Lieutenant)

Councilperson Petty made a motion to approve Resolution 2012-26. Councilperson Gaworski seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Councilperson Gaworski said Pal was on the Police Department two years before he came on. He worked with Pal for 13 years and he became a good friend—he was a friend of just about everyone in New Castle. Everybody had a story to tell about Pal.

Unfinished Business

1. Discussion of the process to select an engineering firm to perform services of surveying, preliminary engineering, permitting, etc., for the Riverfront Redevelopment Plan.

President Barthel asked Planning Commission Chairman David Bird to provide an update.

Mr. Bird said this is the next step in the process of the waterfront plan. Council had approved the ability to go ahead and seek funds to do further studies. Those funds have been approved by the State. Council has in its packets a document for a request for proposal for the preliminary engineering and permitting phase. It will look at at least two alternative locations, the end of Delaware Street and the existing wooden pier. It also will develop preliminary engineering, evaluate potential safety issues, develop preliminary design for supporting Kalmar Nyckel and other vessels; refine cost estimates and schedule for final design and construction alternatives; and estimate maintenance costs and outline any potential issues. They will look at potential archeological impacts and deliver high-level estimates of potential economic benefits.

Administrator Thomas said this does not require any action by Council but the City wants to make sure residents are aware of each step in this process. She has not gotten a definitive decision from the State on whether it must be bid.

President Barthel said it would make sense to bid out.

Administrator Thomas said if Council agrees, she thinks it would be best to do the RFP process. The awarding of a contract for the engineering would be a decision by the City Council.

The consensus of Council was to move forward.

New Business

1. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Resolution for New Castle resident Thomas Maddux to be appointed as the City representative to the Route 9 Heritage Byway Project Advisory Committee.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilperson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Comments from the floor.
No comments.
3. Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel and collective bargaining.

Councilperson Petty made a motion to adjourn the meeting into an Executive Session. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dickinson
New Castle City Clerk